

Points for Mothers

Length of Children's Skirts.
Mothers are often perplexed to know just how long to make their young children's and girl's skirts.

For the tot of one year the little skirt must be cut to the top of the tiny shoe. Any longer than this would interfere with progress when the little one learns to walk.

At eighteen months, when the sturdy tot is running about, let the hem come halfway between the shoe tops and the knee. When the third milestone has been passed let the skirt be shortened so as just to show the bend of the knee and keep this length until the little lady is six years old.

The average child between the ages of seven and twelve years should have her dresses cut long enough to cover the knee.

At thirteen add an inch or two to the length of the dress, and should she continue to develop drop the skirt length to a point halfway between the knee and ankle.

As she reaches fifteen years let the skirt be about two inches above her shoe tops. At sixteen a skirt that comes to the top of the shoe is correct.

When she is eighteen she is a young lady and should be allowed to choose the length of skirt she likes best, but if she is a wise girl she will cling to ankle length, or about four inches from the ground. These rules, of course, are subject to modification, according to the development of the girl. Some girls are much larger or smaller than others at a given age and should be dressed in keeping with their size.

Until a girl is past twenty-one she should not wear very long skirts. Even the debutante out for her second or third season can wear with propriety a dance frock that escapes the floor by three inches.

Be Careful of Children's Feelings.
How often does a mother unconsciously wound the feelings of her child! How many requests the kindest of women refuse their boys or girls without realizing how disappointed the children may be! Why deny your baby needlessly? There are so many times when a mother must refuse a child's demands that it seems cruel to deny him at other times.

Cruelty is defined as "any act of a human being which inflicts unnecessary pain." Cruelty has an ugly ring, hasn't it? But there are hundreds of people who are honestly unaware of their own cruelty.

Do you mothers who deny your children little pleasures just because it may be inconvenient for you to grant them, at the time of asking—do you ever think of the "unnecessary pain" you are inflicting on the child? This morning, Mrs. Model Mother, did it occur to you that it was inflicting "unnecessary pain" on little Bobby when you refused to let him stand on a chair to see out of the window? Poor little chap! He wasn't tall enough to see without a boost. To be sure, you were writing letters or dusting or washing dishes, and you didn't have time to stop and grant his request. So you told him it would spoil the chair. Only one minute would have sufficed to pull up the chair, to put a newspaper on it for the tiny feet, and that minute's time would have saved the poor little baby heart one pang. Wouldn't it have been worth stopping for?

Children's Scrap Books.
Scrap book collecting is a farm nursery diversion that has fewer adherents than it once had. Times was when the youngsters devoted much time and thought to gathering material with which to fill the books, and who would succeed in having the best collection was a matter of heated competition. It seems a pity that this form of collecting should have dropped into disfavor, for if rightly directed it may be the means of developing traits in the child that would otherwise lie dormant.

In the selection of clippings for a child's scrap book a large proportion of space should be allotted to verse.

The attention of the child will thus be directed to the many beautiful ideas that are clothed in musical measure.

Numbers of grown folks can say that many a noble sentiment has become fixed in their thoughts which would perhaps have escaped them had it not been presented in the beautiful garb of poetry and had not the making of scrap books been one of the delights of their childhood.

Motherly Admonition.
A New York woman of great beauty called one day upon a friend, bringing with her her eleven-year-old daughter, who gave promise of becoming as great a beauty as her mother.

It chanced that the callers were shown into a room where the friend had been receiving a milliner, and there were several beautiful hats lying about. During the conversation the little girl amused herself by examining the milliner's creations. Of the number that she tried on she seemed particularly pleased with a large black amig, which set off her light hair charmingly. Turning to her mother, the little girl said:

"I look just like you now, mother, don't I?"

"Sh!" cautioned the mother with uplifted finger. "Don't be vain, dear."



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A Great Blow.

A western financier was talking to a Washington reporter about a financial deal that had ended disastrously.

"It was too bad," said the reporter.

"Too bad?" said the financier, with a grim smile. "Oh, 'too bad' is not strong enough to fit the case. 'Too bad' is ludicrous. It suggests the farmer who when his wife and family were killed by a cyclone said it was a 'great blow' to him."—Exchange.

No Emancipation.

"And so you are an ex-slave," said the traveler in the south. "How interesting! But when the war was ended you got your freedom."

"No, sir," replied Uncle Rastus. "Ah didn't git no freedom. Ah was mar-ried."—New York Times.

An Improvement.

Mrs. Winks—So you have taken another companion for better or worse, eh? Mrs. Second Trip—One for better, my dear. He can't possibly be worse than the other one was.

Not Envious.

Mrs. Kicker—The Filigrées have a Corot in the dining room.

Mr. Kicker—That's nothing. We have a whistler in the kitchen—Satire.

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